

PES-0077

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 25 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1 and 6 - 25 have been cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 2 - 5 have been amended, leaving Claims 2 - 5 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Claim 4 was amended to place the claim in independent form, while the other claims were amended to update their dependency.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments or new claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was acknowledged as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 has been re-written in independent form, with the remaining claims amended to ultimately dependent therefrom. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 - 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,657,829 to McElroy, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,040,072 to Murphy, et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants note that McElroy et al. fail to teach load cells, the systems, and the the particular fluid containment vessel, as taught and claimed in the present application, and that Murphy et al. fail to cure the deficiencies of McElroy et al. For example, Murphy et al. fail to teach load cells as taught and claimed in the present application.

However, to facilitate allowance of the claims, and to reduce prosecution costs, Claim 4 has been redrafted in independent form, and the remaining claims have been amended to ultimately depend therefrom. Applicants have made these amendments without prejudice and reserve the right to pursue the originally filed claims in continuation and divisional applications.

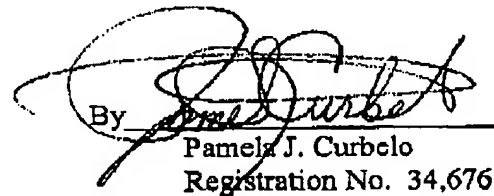
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It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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